



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage

GOVERNOR

31 July 2013

Representative Mark W. Eves
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Senator Justin L. Alford
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Speaker Eves and President Alford,

I have received your letter dated yesterday. Unfortunately, I believe your "strong concerns" are misplaced concerning our proposals. Protecting Maine's environment is not something that can be accomplished relying on sound bites and media accounts. It takes hard work, time, and effort to understand the intricate details of environmental regulations, the underlying science, and how those regulations interact with our economy. Quite simply, it is not something well-suited to letter writing to capitalize on media accounts for political gain.

My administration has been contacted by developers interested in establishing new pellet mills in multiple areas of our state, including Washington County. Unfortunately, the burdens of our current regulatory structure could add an additional one million dollars in costs to such a project. Making common-sense reforms will improve our ability to attract investment and get Mainers working again.

That is why we are pursuing regulatory reforms. In fact, these changes are similar to those undertaken by both my predecessors, Governors King and Baldacci. Their changes did not lead to a "race to the bottom." In fact, Maine has attained the applicable standards for ozone since 2004, including the more stringent 2008 standard. Unfortunately your rhetoric seems to imply that the choice between economic prosperity and environmental protection is "either/or." For me and my administration, it is "both/and."

To help Maine create jobs, we are not afraid to utilize the flexibility provided for in law. To ensure that our environment is protected, we have drafted a technical document for review by the public. If either of you have concerns with the science, please let me know and I will provide them to the Department of Environmental Protection. However, my administration has been in continuous contact with the Environmental Protection Agency on these changes. We have been and will continue to be focused on doing the people's business, not scoring political points.



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Lastly, as for your request to hold action until a public hearing is scheduled, you may want to review both federal and state law governing these changes. Since we received a request for a public hearing prior to your letter's arrival, we have already begun scheduling that hearing as federal law requires. If waivers are granted, then the Department will need to amend its rules under the Administrative Procedures Act. This has all been done before. The public process is well-established and individuals will have a chance to voice concerns about science or policy.

Thank you for your letter. My administration will continue to both protect our environment and grow our economy. As I said, for us, it is "both/and."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul R. LePage". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Paul" and the last name "LePage" clearly legible.

Paul R. LePage
Governor